

MAMMALOGY.—*A new subspecies of harvest mouse (genus Reithrodontomys) from Chiapas, Mexico.*¹ EMMET T. HOOPER, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. (Communicated by H. G. Deignan.)

In November 1948, Dr. H. O. Wagner collected seven specimens of *Reithrodontomys* at Cintalapa, Chiapas, a locality that previously had not been sampled for harvest mice. Three of the seven are examples of *R. fulvescens chiapensis*. Four are examples of *R. mexicanus*. An analysis of variation in the species *mexicanus* was underway at the time the specimens were received. In manuscript I referred the four specimens of *R. mexicanus* to the race *howelli*, and entered the qualifying statement that "extreme pallor, small auditory bullae and long hard palate obtain in the examples from the lowlands near Cintalapa." In March 1950, Wagner obtained a small sample of *R. mexicanus* from Villa Flores, which lies 45 airline miles southeast of Cintalapa and also among the foothills of the Sierra Madre. Those specimens resemble the examples from Cintalapa. In the same set of characters the two series contrast with other samples of the species from México. They appear to represent a geographic race, heretofore undescribed.

Reithrodontomys mexicanus scansor, n. subsp.

Type.—Adult male, skin and skull; Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool. no. 96816; México, Chiapas, Villa Flores, elevation 2,000 feet; collected March 22, 1950, by Helmuth O. Wagner; original number 6023.

Distribution.—Interior arid tropical valleys in southwestern Chiapas. Known range from Cintalapa, 1,700 feet, southeast to Villa Flores, 2,000 feet.

Characters and comparisons.—A subspecies of *R. mexicanus* characterized by pale, vinaceous-tawny upperparts, small auditory bullae, and long hard palate. It differs from *mexicanus* in features as follows:

Smaller skull, well seen in the measurements of cranial length, zygomatic breadth, and length of molar row. Incisive foramina shorter and palate relatively longer (on the average the length of palate is 93 percent of length of incisive foramina in *scansor* and 81 percent in *mexicanus*). Fur of upper parts shorter and

paler, with much less blackish overlay (of the guard hairs); cover hairs basally near Dark Plumbeous² rather than Plumbeous-Black; their distal bands paler (nearer Pinkish Cinnamon or Ochraceous-Tawny in subadult pelage and Orange-Cinnamon or Cinnamon in adult pelage, rather than Ochraceous-Tawny or Cinnamon in subadults and Tawny in adults of *mexicanus*).

Compared with *howelli*, *scansor* is paler and not as rufescent; the buffy bands appear slightly less rufescent in hue and the guard hairs either are fewer or are less blackish than in *howelli*. The auditory bullae are less inflated, the palate longer and the incisive foramina shorter (length of palate 93 per cent of length of foramina in *scansor* and 81 per cent in *howelli*). In the specimens of *scansor* the sphenopalatine vacuities are well-defined elongate slits. In most of the examples of *howelli* the vacuities are at best minute and irregular in outline.

Measurements.—Averages and extremes in millimeters of six specimens from Cintalapa and Villa Flores: total length, 180 (174–195); tail vertebrae, 105 (100–105); hind foot, 19 (18–21); ear measured from notch, 15, (15–16); greatest length of skull 22.7 (21.5–23.7); zygomatic breadth, 11.8 (11.4–12.3); breadth of brain case 11.1 (10.8–11.3); depth of cranium, 8.7 (8.4–9.0); interorbital breadth, 3.5 (3.4–3.7); breadth of rostrum, 4.2 (4.0–4.5); length of rostrum (measured from tip of nasal to notch, near lacrimal, on superior inner border of zygomatic process of maxilla), 7.6 (7.4–8.2); least breadth of zygomatic plate, 1.5 (1.4–1.7); length of palate, 3.8 (3.5–4.2); alveolar length of molar row, 3.3 (3.1–3.4); length of incisive foramina, 4.1 (3.9–4.2); breadth of mesopterygoid fossa, 1.5 (1.4–1.6).

Remarks.—*R. m. scansor* inhabits arid tropical lowlands in the rain shadow of the Sierra Madre. In Central America and Mexico the species *mexicanus* is found predominantly in moist subtropical and temperate highlands within the altitudinal range 4,000–7,000 feet. Where conditions are locally suitable it descends into arid tropical lowlands. Dr. Wagner informs me (*in*

² Capitalized color terms from Ridgway, *Color standards and color nomenclature*, 1912.

¹ Received September 14, 1950.

litt.) that at Cintalapa and Villa Flores the species was found only near stream courses and in swampy areas. The species is known to be semiarboreal in habit. The scansorial tendency is evident in *scansor*. Seven of the nine specimens were trapped in trees, three in flowering *Erythrina*, and four in trees of undetermined kind. Another specimen was obtained under a clump of bushes and trees.

In coloration and other characters of the fur *scansor* resembles *R. pacificus*. In both the coloration of the upperparts is comparatively drab and "streaked" in appearance and the fur is short and coarse. All specimens of *pacificus* that I have seen are smaller than those of

scansor, however; the smallness is well seen in the length of the hind foot, breadth of brain case, and length of molar row. The tail of *pacificus* is shorter, the interorbital diameter of the skull is relatively greater, and the rostrum is relatively broader. The external resemblances in those two forms appear to be responses to somewhat similar environments. Other characters of *scansor* suggest consanguinity with *R. mexicanus*; the form appears to be a geographic race of that species.

Specimens examined.—Nine from localities in Chiapas, Mexico, as follows: Cintalapa, 1,700 feet, 4; Villa Flores, 2,000 feet, 5.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACADEMY

440TH MEETING OF BOARD OF MANAGERS

The 440th meeting of the Board of Managers, held in the Cosmos Club, October 30, 1950, was called to order at 8:05 P.M., by the President, F. B. SILSBEE. Others present were: H. S. RAPPLEYE, H. A. REHDER, F. C. KRACEK, F. M. DEFANDORF, W. F. FOSHAG, C. L. GAZIN, H. P. BARSS, A. T. MCPHERSON, C. F. W. MUESEBECK, W. A. DAYTON, C. A. BETTS, E. W. PRICE, MARGARET PITTMAN, and, by invitation, R. G. BATES and T. D. STEWART.

At the request of the President, the Acting Secretary read the results of the ballot upon the amendment to article II, section 1, paragraph 3 of the bylaws increasing the number of permitted active members of the Academy from 750 to 1,000 and the resident members from 600 to 800, as follows:

In favor of the amendment.....	374
Opposed to the amendment.....	11
Not voting (returned ballot).....	1
Unsigned (therefore not tabulated).....	3
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Total ballots received.....	389
Total membership canvassed.....	817

The Chairman of the Committee on Meetings, F. M. DEFANDORF, announced that J. A. VAN ALLEN would speak on researches on upper atmosphere at the next meeting of the Academy.

The Chairman of the Committee on Membership R. G. BATES, presented 24 nominations for resident membership and 2 for nonresident. Twenty-four persons previously nominated were elected to resident membership.

The Chairman of the Committee on Awards for Scientific Achievement, T. D. STEWART, announced that the subcommittees had not yet reported their recommendations. However, in view of the situation existing in the consideration by the subcommittee for Physical Sciences for their nominee, the Board was requested to consider the situation of a team of two individuals working on the same project and equally worthy. It was the feeling of the Board that, if this subcommittee proposed a team of two, the Board might be favorably inclined to suspend the Standing Rules for its consideration.

A. T. MCPHERSON introduced the following resolution, which was accepted by the Board, but no action was taken.

Whereas it is stated in the Act of Incorporation of the Academy that the "particular business and objects are the promotion of science," be it resolved that an Award of the Academy be granted for Noteworthy Accomplishment in the Teaching of Science, and that this award be governed by the same conditions and limitations as the Academy Awards in the physical, biological, and engineering sciences, and be it further resolved that the present Committee on Awards be augmented as necessary in order to give consideration to nominations for an Award in the teaching of science for the current year.

The President announced that he had received a letter from L. W. PARR, Chairman of the Committee on Policy and Planning, regarding the activities of the Committee, past and present.

The Acting Secretary reported the following deaths: HOWARD S. REED, University of Cali-